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LICANTS:

Alsobrook et al.

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as set forth below and consider the following remarks:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 286, line 28 with the following:

The following oligonucleotide primers were used to clone the target cDNA sequence:

F2 5'-AAGCTT TGTCCCTTGATCTGTCACAATGGCGGTGTGTGC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 167)

R2 5'-CTCGAG GATCTCCCGGAAACCCTCTGAGCCGAAGGG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 65)

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 288, line 1 with the following:

An amplified product was detected by agarose gel electrophoresis. The fragment was gelpurified and ligated into the pCR2.1 vector (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) following the manufacturer's recommendation. Twelve clones per PCR reaction were picked and sequenced. The inserts were sequenced using vector-specific M13 Forward and M13 Reverse primers and the following gene-specific primers:

SF1: GGCAGCGCCCTACACGGT (SEQ ID NO: 66)

SF2: GATGAGTGCGCGACTGGC (SEQ ID NO: 67)

SR1: CCTCAGCGTCCGCCTCCT (SEQ ID NO: 68)

SR2: CGCACTCATCCACATCTTCGC (SEQ ID NO: 69)